(b) when the Government's stay order was issued and when the lease was confirmed; and

(c) what action the Government have taken for the failure to give effect to the Government's stay order by the concerned authorities in the district?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" (a) Yes. The order of the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department, regarding the lease of the lands of the temple was stayed.

" (b) The stay order of the Government was issued on 12th July 1952. The lease was confirmed on 11th August 1952.

" (c) The Commissioner has taken action against the persons concerned for failure to communicate Government's stay orders to the temple authorities in time."

Manufacture of neera in Vijayavada taluk.

* 874 Q.—SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned neera for Vijayavada taluk in Krishna district;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative the reasons for selecting this taluk in the district;

(c) the number of neera centres that were working by the end of February 1953 in the State; and

(d) the policy adopted in opening those centres?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :— " (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Government have permitted the sale of sweet toddy for consumption as a beverage in the Vijayavada taluk on the representation made to Government by certain tappers' association and certain Members of Legislature.

" (c) The sale of sweet toddy for beverage purposes is allowed in

(1) the whole of Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts.

(2) Kakinada taluk, Narasapur taluk, Visakhapatnam taluk Vijayavada taluk and Nuzvid taluk.

(3) Area covered by the T. Sundupalli Jaggery Society, Cuddapah district.

(4) The Palm Gur Training School, Cuddalore.

(5) Adyar Jaggery Manufacturing Society, Mangalore.

(6) Gandhi Ashram, Angalur, Krishna district.

" (d) In Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts, people are accustomed to consume sweet toddy as a beverage. In other places except in the Palm Gur Training School, Cuddalore, where it is allowed for demonstration purposes, the

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concession has been granted as an experimental measure. Generally this concession is granted only in areas where the people are accustomed to drinking neera and places where there is no likelihood of misuse."

Hiring of power-boring and drilling sets.

* 875 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of power-boring and drilling sets with the Government for hire;

(b) how many such sets are at present employed in Salem district; and

(c) whether any municipality or panchayat in the above district has applied for the boring sets to deepen the wells to ensure drinking water-supply?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (a) Thirty-three Power Drills and 193 Hand Boring Sets.

" (b) One Power Drill and 4 Hand Boring Sets.

" (c) Yes."

Retrenchment in the Electricity department.

* 876 Q.—SRI B. LAKSHMINARASA RAJU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state how many of the employees of the Electricity Department have been removed from service on account of the sudden stoppage of work; of these how many have put in more than two years of service and why so many have been thrown out of work?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—" Three thousand three hundred and forty-one (3,341) employees of the Electricity Department have been discharged from service consequent on the slowing down or stoppage of work and of these 579 had put in more than two years' service. The retrenchment has been necessitated by the quantum of funds available for executing extension schemes."

Retrenchment of process-servers.

* 877 Q.—SRI G. RAMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the services of any process-servers were dispensed with, with the abolition of the work relating to suits under the Estates Land Act work in the office of Revenue Divisional Officers;

(b) if so, the number of process-servers so removed; and

(c) the number of such servers given employment afterwards?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (a) The process establishment employed for work under the Estates Land Act, 1908, were disbanded when the estates were taken over by the Government.